



The Paintbrush

Winter 2011 Newsletter, Volume 27, Number 1
San Gabriel Mountains Chapter, California Native Plant Society

CONTENTS

- Plant Sale Review, 1
- Conservation, 2
- Understanding, 3
- Appreciation, 4
- Horticultural Use, 5
- Schedule of Events, 7
- Chapter Directory, 8

EVENTS

JANUARY

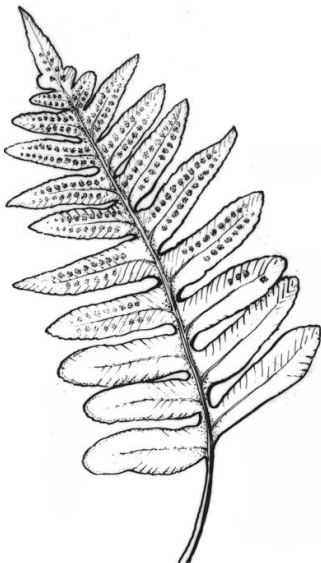
- 6 Board Meeting, 7:30 pm
- 8 Field Trip, 9 am
- 9 Plant Walk, 9 am
- 27 Program, 7 pm

FEBRUARY

- 5 Field Trip, 10 am
- 13 Plant Walk, 9 am
- 24 Program, 7 pm

MARCH

- 3 Board Meeting, 7:30 pm
- 5 Field Trip, 10 am
- 13 Plant Walk, 9 am
- 24 Program, 7 pm



Plant Sale Review

A Success Story

by Cliff McLean, Graham Bothwell and Jane Strong

THE work done by volunteers is greatly appreciated. A number of people did different tasks at the sale from welcoming guests, providing information, writing sales tickets, staffing the membership table, handling payments, hauling plants to cars, to set-up and clean-up. Before the sale even started there were plants to be ordered, signs to be made, flyers to be designed, printed and distributed, finances to be organized. All of these tasks are important to the sale.

We always have a good time at the plant sale helping other people who are interested in using southern California native plants in their gardens. The sale provides most of the money that the chapter needs to operate for the year. When we finish, we always consider it a good investment of our time.

Among the plants that sold out were *Achillea* 'Island Pink'; *Heuchera* 'Old La Rochelle', 'Wendy', 'Opal' and 'Santa Ana Cardinal'; *Muhlenbergia rigens*; *Penstemon heterophylla* 'Margarita BOP' and *P. spectabilis*; *Ribes viburnifolium*; sedum and dudleyas. Plants were supplied by wholesalers El Nativo Growers and Magic Growers and donated by Daniel Geiger.

The total takings for the day were \$500 more than last year. The balmy fall weather was as welcome as ever. Thanks to everyone who helped in both large and small ways. It all contributed to a successful event.

2010 PLANT SALE VOLUNTEERS: Plant and seed order/plant catalog, Rick Fisher; publicity, Andrea Edwards; volunteer coordination, Cliff McLean; seed packaging, Cliff McLean; Friday unloading, Rick Fisher, Orchid Black, Cliff McLean, Daniel Howell, Jane Strong, Mort Gorel; plant signs, Barbara Eisenstein; parking lot, Daniel Geiger; food, Bernie Mateer, Daniel Geiger, Mickey Long; greeting/information, Alison Hadziosmanovic; consultants, Rick Fisher, Orchid Black, Jay Lieske, Laura Bauer, Maya Gingery, Rebecca Latta; holding area/ticket writers, Bill Peet, Celeste Moore, Cynthia Null, Peggy Burhenn, Mike Caley; membership table, Gabi McLean, Andrea Edwards, Kathy Sturdevant; cashiers, Graham Bothwell, Jane Tirrell, Mei Kwan, Norm Ackerman; customer assistance, Terry Keller, Tom Brady, Jude Schwendenwien, Rebecca Sanchez; general/as needed, Mickey Long, Cliff McLean.



A **DECIDUOUS FERN** *Polypodium californicum* (California Polypody) is a winter to spring fern preferring rocky ledges, moist banks and cliffs. Distinguishing features are the simple (once-cut) frond and the rounded tip of the leaflet. Polypody unfurls its light, bright green fronds in the dampness of winter and early spring and gradually goes dormant as the ground dries out by summertime.

What's a Weed?

ONE definition is "a plant out of place". For example, California poppy is the iconic symbol of native plants in California, yet is classified as a noxious weed in Alaska, Oregon and Chile.

Gabi McLean has produced a weed identification guide of the most common, most colorful and most conspicuous weeds we are likely to see locally. This file named Most Common Weeds in the San Gabriel Mountains / Angeles National Forest is available for reading or downloading at natureathand.com.

The weeds are organized by family with characteristics. Many pictures of the plant at various stages of growth are shown. This is very useful because often times weeds are not well covered in the manuals, thus making them harder to identify although they are common.

Arcadia Oak Woodland Wins Reprieve

PASADENA Star News said: More than 11 acres of pristine native oak woodland are scheduled to be cut down to create a dumping ground for sediment dredged from the Santa Anita Dam in a Los Angeles County Public Works project.

Glen Owens said: It's pristine, it's almost sacred. It's one of only two oak woodlands left in the whole valley.

Tim Brick said (referring to the Hahamongna Habitat Removal Plan, where 15 acres of willows will be removed to clear out sediment): Only public pressure and regulatory hammers can ensure a more sensible and sensitive management plan.

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich said: Several individuals have contacted my office with concerns about the proposed removal of these oak trees. Antonovich's motion to put a 30-day moratorium on plans reads: I share their concern, and further believe that every option should be pursued to protect this valued environmental resource.

Margaret Mead said: Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does.

Let's keep the pressure on to preserve the Arcadia oak woodland and the Hahamongna willow habitat.

A WEEDY FERN *Pteris vittata*, commonly known as ladder brake fern, is an introduced species in California, Texas, and the southeastern United States. *Pteris vittata* has escaped from cultivation. It is found on almost any calcareous substrate, such as old masonry, sidewalks, building crevices, bridge bases, and exposed limestone. It grows in Eaton Canyon, Monrovia Canyon and San Gabriel Canyon.

Pteris vittata is a hyperaccumulator of arsenic with the ability to extract arsenic from soil and store it in its leaves. The fern has been praised for its potential to clean up contaminated groundwater and to remediate soils contaminated with arsenic. Although it has the beneficial quality of being a natural bioaccumulator, it is still considered an invasive plant and should be managed as such.

Join PlantRight for its 2011 Spring Nursery Survey

THE PlantRight campaign has invited us to participate in their 2nd annual Spring Nursery Survey between March and June of 2011. PlantRight is a partnership between scientists, government agencies, environmental groups, and the horticulture industry that works to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive garden plants in California. The survey is designed to detect the presence or absence of invasive plants in the inventories of retail nurseries across the state and allows PlantRight to monitor changes in the market for invasive plants over time.

Participation in the 2011 PlantRight Spring Nursery Survey will entail viewing an educational training session online, visiting local nurseries selected from PlantRight's list, and submitting the completed survey forms online. The online, educational training session will take place in late-February and the surveying of stores will begin in mid-March to April.

Last year's PlantRight Campaign surveyed 19 invasive plants including arundo, Spanish broom, capeweed, pampas grass and periwinkle. For more details on the program, and the reasons for protecting California from invasive species, see <http://www.plantright.org/>.

PlantRight will randomly select the nurseries for this survey and volunteers will be asked to choose from that list. The list will include Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County, as well as other neighboring counties.

If you are interested in participating in the 2011 Spring Nursery Survey, please email Kathy Sturdevant at kathy.sturdevant@sbcglobal.net and include your name and the city and county you are available to survey.



Lily Spring Area Survey Progress Report

The Numbers

THE name was changed to Lily Spring Area Survey to convey broader scope. Highlights from this season include:

1 noteworthy collection: Grey-leaved violet, *Viola pinetorum* var. *grisea*, first LA Co/San Gabriel Mt collection, CNPS list 1B

1 significant range extension: Brewer's monkeyflower, *Mimulus breweri*, not previously vouchered in Los Angeles County

14 species not found but listed by Sawyer; some of these were misidentified, for example, the voucher for Washoe phacelia was checked at RSA and proved to be Mohave phacelia; others are seldom seen such as pinewoods fritillary and bog orchid although the search for them was very diligent

38 species found not included in Sawyer's 1981 survey; reasons are misidentification of original voucher, e.g., greenleaf manzanita as Parry's manzanita, fire following annuals increased after the Curve Fire of 2002, e.g., red-rayed hulsea, poodle-dog bush and coyote tobacco, and wind-pollinated plants were not part of the original study, e.g., Fremont goosefoot, wild tarragon, and mountain big sagebrush

50+ visits from May to November, 2010

600+ volunteer hours, over 90% by Jane Tirrell and Walt Fidler



A RARE FERN *Thelypteris puberula* var. *sonomensis* (Sonoran maiden fern) is included in the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants on list 2.2 (rare, threatened, or endangered in CA; common elsewhere). Local records are from these canyons along seepages and streams: Roberts (1931), Fish (1925, 1932, 1971), Monrovia (1908), Santa Anita (not dated) and Eaton (1907). Specimens were collected in Harrow Canyon Debris Basin (Glendora) in 1997, but were not refound by the collector last year. This is a very tall fern; look at the 6 inch ruler in the image.

Chapter Wins Grand Prize in Rare Plant Treasure Hunt

OUR San Gabriel Mountains Chapter has been selected as the Grand Prize Chapter winner for having the most volunteer hours and rare plant occurrences found by any CNPS chapter for the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt! The chapter has been awarded \$100 which was used to buy plant presses from BioQuip for chapter use on future field trips. Thanks to Graham Bothwell, Jane Tirrell, Walt Fidler, Shirley Imsand, Laura Scott Sellers, Tom Chester and Jane Strong for their hard work on this project.



Rare Bloom Found in Puente Hills

A White Fuchsia-flowered Gooseberry

by Cynthia Guthrie, native plant consultant

UP in the Puente Hills, there is a very special plant waking up from its slumber of dormancy. I stumbled upon it quite by accident while letting my dog (Seth) out for a potty break. I was driving up Turnbull Canyon Road, when he made it clear that he needed to "go". I found a pull-out with a trail leading up the hill, and decided to explore a little. There were many fuchsia-flowered gooseberries (*Ribes speciosum*) in bloom, along with scattered wildflowers. We came to a fire road and continued up the hill. As I walked, I was scanning for plants, when a shrub with white flowers caught my eye. I wanted to get a closer look, but it was up on a fairly steep slope with some poison oak here and there. I had to get closer, because I didn't believe my eyes, so I carefully scrambled up the slope. As I got closer, my excitement grew! Sure enough, it was a fuchsia-flowered gooseberry with white flowers!

I had never heard of such a thing, so I did a lot of research, and couldn't find anything. I took a sample to many experts who had never heard of one either. I contacted the Puente Hills Landfill Authority, because it's on their conservancy's land. I spoke with Shannon, who couldn't believe it either, and she sent it off to the person who is keying *Ribes* for the new Jepson. Well, folks, it looks like this is the only known example of a fuchsia-flowered gooseberry with white flowers!

This is something that I wanted to share with everyone, and especially you photographers out there, because it is so special! It just has new leaves coming out, but will be in bloom in December. It is at the crest of Turnbull Canyon Road, at the intersection of Skyline Drive. There is a fire road that goes off to the east, and as you walk, you will see a broken down old gate on the left. The *Ribes* is a little up the slope just past the gate. I hope you all get the chance to enjoy this wonderful plant as much as I have.

Close to home, a celebration of seasons

Winter's Pleasures

by Jane Strong

THREE things I like best about this season are the explosion of ferns on the rocky canyon walls, the “vernally moist areas” which are our version of vernal pools, though miniature in scale, and the sprinklings of tiny, white-flowered winter annuals along the sides of the trails in shady spots.

Ferns growing out of rocks. Water hiding in the crevices of our fractured granitic rocks along with the abundant moisture in the air during our mediterranean-climate winter unfurl the fronds of ferns this time of year. Most common are the deciduous California polypody, the floury goldback and bean-colored coffee fern.

Vernally moist areas. How often have you seen the habitat description in Munz or Jepson “found in vernally moist areas”? What does that mean? The area is dry most of the year, but holds water after winter rains. Soil particles filter out according to size, smallest in the center, making concentric rings. Myriads of tiny plants like pygmyweed, suncups, popcornflower, filaree, and cottonrose (*Filago sp.*) separate out as well.

Winter blooming annuals. These are mostly white, mostly tiny and are often hidden under shrubs. Western bittercress with fern-like leaves, peppergrass with wheel-like seedpods, popcornflowers, miner's lettuce and chickweed sound like food. Suncups, not white, but yellow, hold insects. Fluffy strands of nest straw and cottonrose are used by birds as nest lining.

My favorite places to see these pleasures are in Eaton Canyon along the West Bank Trail and at Santa Fe Dam on the Nature Trail. For the more adventurous, there are Dry Lake Canyon between the Baldy Tunnels and the West Fork of the San Gabriel River when it is open. Do you know of any more?

Native Plant Uses

Trade and Neighbors

by Mark F. Acuña, Tongva elder and ethnobotanist

WELL here we are at the start of Autumn, and already the weather has started its cyclical changes. We have had thunder and lightning, rain, hail and beautifully clouded skies and even a few double rainbows.

At this time of year, the Tongva would have finished preparations for Winter and even for the coming Spring. The harvesting of acorns and the last seed gatherings of whatever could still be found kept the villagers busy storing for the cold and rainy days of Winter.

All during the year, traders, shamans, and medicine people had been visiting neighboring tribal peoples exchanging and trading goods.

Trading was an integral part of tribal community exchanging. Not only goods, but news, stories, songs, and coming events were exchanged along with leaf and seed, bark and root.

The Tongva traded with their southern neighbors, the Diegueño, and their eastern neighbors, the Cahuilla, for *Abronia sp.* (sand verbena) for use as a diuretic. The Cahuilla also offered *Acacia greggii* (catclaw) which, although bitter tasting and difficult to harvest, was stored for Winter and made into mush or cakes. The San Jacinto Mountains Cahuilla also traded *Agastache urticifolia* (giant hyssop) leaves to be used for rheumatic pain.

The Cahuilla and Diegueño, known as the Payumkwichum, from the San Diego area, also offered *Agave sp.* (agave). Leaves, flowers, buds and pods were traded for their food, fibers for cordage, charcoal for tattooing, and the sap for tending wounds. The Ventura Chumash, known to the Tongva as the Kwekwenayvit, traded *Alisma triviale* (water plantain) to poultice wounds.

The Tubatulabl from the south fork of the Kern River traded *Apocynum spp.* (dogbane), although the Tongva had their own variety. Good strong cordage could be made from *Apocynum*.

The Luiseño in the San Luis Rey Mission area, known as the Kuechnajuichom, traded the seeds of *Aristida spp.* (triple-awned grass) for use in the Tu'ah't mix (also known as Pinole).

One last trade item for this month was *Athyrium filix-femina var. californicum* (lady fern) which the Cahuilla, called the Kunitartaxam by the Tongva, traded for Los Angeles Basin medicinal flora. So much for some of the “A's”; some day we'll continue with more of the ethnobotanic alphabet.

Editor's Note: Mark wrote this after the last issue was published. He writes that “(winter) is the time for mending, fixing, and preparing slowly for spring. We start again (with new articles) at the spring equinox.”



A USEFUL FERN During a 6-week period starting in April, plant enthusiasts descend on the San Bernardino National Forest to harvest *Pteridium aquilinum* (bracken fern) that grows in abundance there. Pickers travel, some of them great distances, to gather this fern in the wild. Many Asian-Americans pick young bracken fern fiddleheads as a delicacy for use in holiday and everyday meals. Bracken fern has many other uses, such as basket making material, dyes, astringent, potash for glass making, soap, animal bedding, mulch, thatch, and medicine.

Native Plant Gardening Corner

Q: I bought and planted lots of new native plants. Please give me some tips on how to keep them alive.

By Barbara Eisenstein,
native plant garden writer and consultant

TRANSITIONING from nursery conditions that promote fast, soft growth to the harsh, cruel world of your garden can be difficult. In the process of becoming established in their new home, plants grow new roots that eventually extend into the surrounding garden soil. Here are a few tips to help your recently planted shrubs, trees and perennials during the establishment period.

1. Water thoroughly making sure that the soil in and around the planting hole becomes wet.

2. Allow the soil to become moderately dry between watering. If the soil surrounding the roots stays too wet the roots are prone to rotting. Furthermore, roots need

If your plants are wilting but the soil is moist, do not add more water. Plants wilt for many reasons.

both air and water. Small spaces or pores fill with water when the soil is excessively wet, starving the roots of air.

3. It is best to water plants, especially when young, before they become drought-

stressed. Many plants will show slight wilting of leaves or stem tips when they need water. Unfortunately plants with stiff stems and waxy leaves may not wilt, even when severely stressed. Check the soil beneath the surface near the roots and water when dry. Also, use nearby succulent plants, that more readily exhibit signs of drought-stress, as an indicator of water needs for your more rigid individuals.

4. Some young plants will wilt slightly during the heat of the day but perk up as temperatures decline. If the soil near a slightly wilted plant is moist, extra water usually will not help. It may be helpful to set up a temporary sun screen for new plants during the heat of the day. I sometimes place a plastic chair over the plant, removing it as the day cools. Young plants become better able to withstand heat as they become established by putting on new root growth.

5. If your plants are wilting but the soil is moist, do not add more water. Plants wilt for many reasons. If the roots are diseased, a common problem for plants in overly moist or poorly drained soil, they exhibit drought-stress because they are unable to take up water and provide it to the above ground portion of the plant. For more causes of wilting consult Linda Chalker-Scott's Horticultural Myths – Leaf Wilt and Water (<http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/~Linda%20Chalker->

Scott/Horticultural%20Myths_files/Myths/Leaf%20wilt.pdf). If your plant is wilted despite adequate soil moisture, it may help to gently prune back the stem tips and allow the soil to dry. Follow up with careful watering practices – only water when the soil is moderately dry and the plant looks like it needs a drink, a bit hard for novices to tell, but it comes with practice.

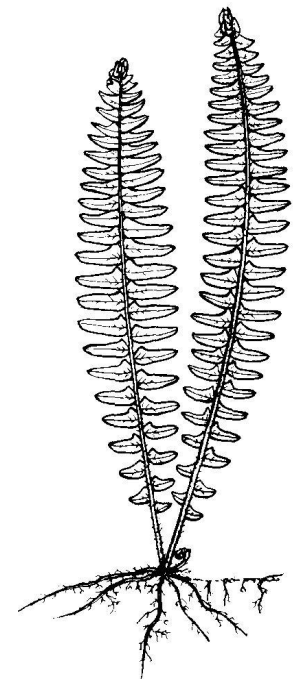
6. Continue to carefully monitor for water during the first one to three growing seasons, gradually watering less frequently, though continuing to water until the root area and beyond are wet. Remember to provide supplemental water during dry winters. This is the time that native plants, especially those from chaparral, grassland and scrub areas, do most of their growing.

7. Three to four inches of mulch can be helpful in moderating temperatures and reducing water loss. Keep mulch away from the crown of the plant (the area where root and stem cells differentiate).

8. Do not allow weeds, annual wildflowers and fast-growing perennials to crowd or smother your new plantings.

Many native plants do not show much above ground growth during the first year or two. However, much is happening below the surface where new root development is needed before the plant can increase in size.

Observing your plants over time will teach you more about how to care for them than any book or class. Each “failure” is an opportunity to learn. Do a post-mortem to try to determine what went wrong. If you cannot figure it out you may want to try again. My rule is three strikes, you're out; any plant that does not succeed in three tries is not meant to be in my garden. With so many wonderful native plants to choose from, this is just an opportunity to try something new.



A GARDEN FERN *Polystichum munitum*, western sword fern, will grow in dry shade, but is best with some moisture.

Growing native bulbs from seeds

Text and images by Daniel L. Geiger,
geiger@vetigastropoda.com

I HAVE completed the first year of a three year project of growing native California bulbs from seeds. Why? Just because I was curious whether that is possible to do at home; it takes about three years to grow flowering plants from seeds. I collected the seeds from plants growing in my yard, which I purchased from various vendors (CNPS-SGM plant sale, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden sale, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Theodore Payne, Telos Rare Bulbs). The seeds were left in the capsules until they could easily be shaken out. This ensures that the seeds are fully formed, but some losses have to be accepted. The seeds were stored in light cloth bags, the ones that bulbs are usually sold in, and kept in the shade in the garage.

I followed the basic guidelines of Harlow & Jacobs (eds., 2003: *Wild Lilies, Irises, and Grasses*). A potting mix of approximately 65% coir (shredded coconut fibers), and 35% perlite, and a handful of organic slow release general vegetable fertilizer (5-7-3) to 2–3 gallons of potting mix. Coir can be surprisingly difficult to source. I finally found it at Santa Barbara Seed & Feed store, and later also at a hydroponics shop (Urban Garden in Woodland Hills). Note that coir and perlite contain zero nutrients, hence, some nutrient source must be provided to the plants, despite the fact, that most natives are usually found in rather nutrient-poor soils.

The potting mix was used in two different containers: a) 2'x2' germination trays (essentially some larger plant racks used to organize 2" pots at nurseries, covered at the bottom with mosquito screen material from the



Tritilea laxa seed. Zeiss DV12, 0.63x planapochromatic objective lens, objective slider, Zeiss Axiocam HRC, Z-stacked from 12 images with HeliconFocus 5.1

hardware store); b) regular 1-gallon plant pots. The former was recommended by the staff at Theodore Payne Foundation, who kindly provided me with a tour of their facility, the latter I gleaned from the website of Telos Rare Bulbs from a picture of their facility. The large trays lend themselves better for larger number of seeds, while the 1- gallon pots are better suited for species with fewer available seeds. But is there a difference? Is one method superior? Should I rather subdivide the large trays into smaller parcels for the odd seeds? Or should all seeds be grown in 1-gallon pots, although they are less space efficient?

I had a fair amount of *Tritilea laxa* (Ithuriel's Spear)

seed, so this was the perfect candidate for an experiment. Two full trays and two 1-gallon pots were seeded in November 2009. The tray had about an inch of potting mix with a light cover over the seeds, the 1-gallon pots had about 4–5 inches of potting mix with the same light cover of seeds. Seeds germinated quite readily after a month or so, and a fairly thick pelt of tiny grass leaves appeared about 1–2 inches tall. It suggests good germination success, though I do not have precise numbers. The containers were kept constantly moist until the leaves started to wilt approximately in May, then they were put in a shaded spot outdoors with no summer water at all.

With the new rain starting in October, the containers are now back on the potting bench and are kept constantly moist. The first new shoots came up 2–3 weeks later. Unfortunately, some finches found my work area, proceeded to eat many of the tasty bulblets, and made an amazing mess. To make the best out of the situation, I took the opportunity to assess the remaining yearling bulbs, by carefully sifting the potting mix and individually transferring the live bulbs, about 0.1–0.2 inch in diameter, to new containers. I noticed that the bulbs in the 1-gallon pots had much better root development than those in the trays. This is a pure visual impression, and not a scientifically controlled assessment. However, it is quite obvious to the naked eye and I estimate the difference in root development at around 50%.

Accordingly, it seems to be advantageous to grow seeds of native bulbs in deeper containers, possibly 2–3 inches deep for *Tritilea laxa*, even deeper for larger species.

Germination success for other species was variable. Few of them were truly quantified, hence, mostly a qualitative impression is given. *Tritilea ixioides* (golden brodiaea) had about 50% germination success with at least some of them now showing shoots in year 2. Two more unidentified species (cf. *Tritilea* big blue, cf. *Allium* (onion) small white), showed a similar profile to *Tritilea laxa*. *Chlorogalum pomeridianum* (soap plant) and *Odontostomum hartwegii* had good germination success, and second year shots suggest at least a 50% survival from seed to year two. Given the large final plant size of *Chlorogalum*, I would think it also requires deep pots right when seeding. The about 20 *Lilium pardalinum* (leopard lily) produced six plants, their first leaves persisting throughout the entire summer. The roots have already reached the bottom of the 1-gallon container, hence this is a species that has to be grown in deep pots. ... continued on page 8

It is interesting to note, that the bulbs of many species including *Tritilea laxa* were found two inches deep in the potting mix, despite them being seeded at less than 0.2 inch below a light cover of potting mix.

BOARD MEETINGS

On the first Thursday of every alternate month or the second Thursday if the first is a holiday from 7:30 pm to 9 pm. All members are welcome to attend. New meeting place to be determined.

January 6

March 3

PROGRAMS

On the fourth Thursday of each month except July, August, November, and December. The meetings begin at 7:30 pm and are preceded by a social gathering at 7 pm usually including plant identification examples.

January 27

Gold-Spotted Oak Borer, Tom Scott

Tom Scott, from the University of California's Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources describes the threat to the oak trees in Southern California posed by the Gold-Spotted Oak Borer.

February 24

Griffith Park Rare Plant Survey, Dan Cooper

Griffith Park is L.A.'s largest park, covering more than 4,000 acres of rugged chaparral and sycamore-lined canyons at the eastern end of the Santa Monica Mountains. In 2007, Dan Cooper, President of Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc., conducted the Griffith Park Natural History Survey.

March 24

Landscaping Plants for California Gardens, Bob Perry

Bob Perry is Professor Emeritus from the Department of Landscape Architecture at Cal Poly University. Over 25 years of instruction, he taught a variety of courses in planting design, plant ecology and sustainable landscape design. Mr. Perry will be summarizing a range of observations and views he has made regarding California native plants and their influence on his teaching and design work.



Pentagramma triangularis
goldback fern

PLANT WALKS

On the second Sunday of each month except during July and August. Meet in front of Eaton Canyon Nature Center at 9 am. The leisurely walk, about 2 hours, is different each time — what's leafing out, flowering, in seed, etc., determines what your leader will talk about — and different leaders bring different points of view.

January 9 with Clem Padick as leader

February 13 with Bob Dollins as leader

March 13 with Cynthia Null as leader

FIELD TRIPS

January 8, 9 am

California Garden at Descanso Gardens, La Cañada Flintridge

Rachel Young, horticulturist for the California Garden, joins us for this walk. She will talk about Descanso's native oak collection and other California natives and what she is doing to improve water conservation. Meet in the courtyard inside the entrance. Fee.

February 5, 10 am

Powder Canyon, Habitat Authority Wilderness Reserve, La Habra Heights

This trail goes through coastal sage scrub and excellent walnut and oak woodlands. Take Fullerton Road to Old Fullerton Road. Use second entrance on the right. Meet in the parking lot near the restrooms and picnic table. Jane Strong, leader.

March 5, 10 am

Restoring the Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly and Native Plants at Friendship Park, San Pedro

Kim Bosell, park superintendent, will be our guide. Meet at the Nature Center.

☒ If you wish email reminders about these events or if you would like to get the newsletter by email, send a request to Cliff McLean at cliff.mclean@verizon.net

EVENTS SPONSORED BY OTHER GROUPS

The Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society will host its second Sierra Summer Sojourn, a weekend of field trips, programs and conversation on July 17-19, at White Mountain Research Station Crooked Creek facility. Field trips focusing on native blooms, bristlecones, butterflies, and alpine ecology will be offered, along with two evening programs on alpine ecology and the bristlecones. More information about the weekend and a registration form can be found on the Bristlecone Chapter website at bristleconecnps.org.

Early registration is advised.



*

Growing Bulbs, continued from page 6 ... From about a dozen *Iris*-hybrid seeds, three plants arose and are growing well. It will be interesting to see the flower color of those plants grown from hybrids. I only had six *Calochortus luteus* (yellow mariposa) seeds, with three germinating, but not looking happy at the end of year one. They have not shown any signs of survival in year two. Of the six *Dichelostemma ida-maia* (firecracker flower) one survived to year two.

It is interesting to note, that the bulbs of many species including *Tritilea laxa* were found two inches deep in the potting mix, despite them being seeded at less than 0.2 inch below a light cover of potting mix. It suggests that the preferred natural depth at which those bulbs develop is deeper than what the shallow trays can provide.

Bottom line: it is not too difficult to grow California native bulbs from seeds. Deeper pots seems generally to produce better results than shallow trays. Possibly bird-proof the growing area with chicken mesh. Give it a try.



*

CNPS-SGM CHAPTER DIRECTORY

Norman Ackerman 626-286-2270 normanackerman@att.net
Member-at-Large
Orchid Black 626-354-2240 orchidblack@charter.net
Programs, Chapter Council Representative
Graham Bothwell 626-449-8392 webcontact@cnps-sgm.org
Treasurer, Web Editor, Newsletter Technical Support
Andrea Edwards 626-476-4163 adedwards8@hotmail.com
Newsletter Distribution
Barbara Eisenstein barbara.eisenstein@gmail.com
Horticulture
Rick Fisher 626-335-2534 toyond@verizon.net
Conservation
Ty Garrison 858-967-6508 jytg@aol.com
Conservation
Terry Keller 562-463-7503 tkeller@riohondo.edu
Vice-president
Mickey Long 626-398-5420 mlongbird@charter.net
Rare Plants
Shelly Magier 818-480-2438 shellyam@aol.com
Secretary
Bernie Mateer
Hospitality
Cliff McLean 626-966-0580 cliff.mclean@verizon.net
Membership, Member Services
Gabi McLean 626-966-0580 gabi.mclean@verizon.net
President, Member Services
Eva Morgan 626-284-0029
Plant Walks
Jane Strong zelicaon@yahoo.com
Field Trips, Newsletter Editor
Kathy Sturdevant kathy.sturdevant@sbcglobal.net
Member-at-Large